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*l'Étoile du Nord*  
French-American Heritage Foundation of Minnesota

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## Annual Report of French-American Heritage Foundation



St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis as they looked when first seen by Father Louis Hennepin in 1680.  
Picture by Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902)

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**The French-American Heritage Foundation** is a 501(c)3 charitable non profit organization with the primary purpose of promoting and sponsoring French Heritage events in Minnesota. Our Mission Statement:

**To promote and cultivate the heritage of French-language cultures.**

French-language heritage has played an important role in the history of Minnesota. It is important and proper that this heritage be celebrated and remembered. The French-American Heritage foundation:

- Maintains a website and a Facebook page focused on French-language heritages
- Sponsors educational events focused on French heritage
- Sponsors educational materials and books about French heritage
- Sponsors a Franco-Fête festival that celebrates this heritage in Minnesota
- Posts Minnesota French-American family history and genealogy to our website
- Provides scholarships for French language and culture studies at both the secondary and university levels

## **Board of Directors**

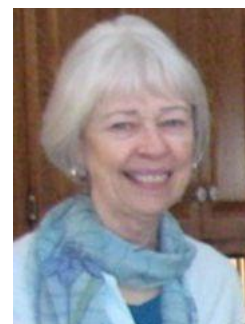
More information of the Board Members is available on the French-American Heritage Foundation website.



**1. Mark Labine,  
President**



**2. Dick Bernard,  
Vice President**



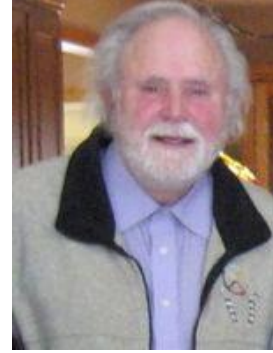
**3. MaryEllen Weller  
Secretary**



4. Jerry Foley, Treasurer



5. Pierre Girard



6. Virgil Benoit



7. Dustin DuFault



8. Mark Petty



9. Brian Caldwell



10. Marie Trepanier



11. Jane Peck



12. Corey LeVasseur



13. Robert Hughes Perrizo

# Advisory Committee

The French-American Heritage Foundation Advisory Committee consists of twenty-four members who support the mission of the foundation and provide advice and counsel to the Foundation

## Advisory Committee

### 1. Beth Helle

*Director of Tourism  
City of Minneapolis*

250 Marquette Ave South  
Suite 1300  
Minneapolis, MN 55401  
Work 612-767-8112  
Email: bethh@minneapolis.org

### 2. Jerry Landreville

*Food Service and Liquor Sales  
Former owner of Champpps, Gallivans,  
Showboat, North End Depot, Chain Link,  
Gages by the Park and Ol'Mexico. Has French  
Canadian Heritage.*

2726 Olde Cypress Drive  
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Cell 239-398-5216  
Email: jjlandreville1@netzero.net

### 3. Richard Martin Guidry

*Expertise in Cajun/Acadians foods,  
music, genealogy, and organization of  
festivals or events, etc.*

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### 4. Kerith Iverson

*Public & Cultural Affairs Officer  
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### 5. Barbara Redmond

*Redmond Barbara Design  
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Communications/advertising/  
Promotion expertise*

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### 6. Steve Madson

*SRO Productions, Inc.  
Productions and Promotion Company.  
Creates and Produces Festivals and  
Events*

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Phone: 612-341-4110  
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### 7. Jacqueline Regis

*District Court Judge, former Assistant  
Attorney General, and President of  
Minnesota Women's Lawyers. Born and  
raised in Les Cayes Haiti. Strong  
Francophone interests and member of  
Alliance Française.*

Phone: 763-205-5225  
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### 8. Dr. Fatima Lawson

*Principal, L'Etoile du Nord Immersion School*

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St. Paul, MN 55106  
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### 9. Rev. Jules Omalanga

*Pastor St. Boniface Catholic Church  
Francophone African Chaplaincy*

629 2<sup>nd</sup> Street N.E.,  
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Email: joomalanga05@gmail.com

**10. Annie Muske**

*French Teacher since 1995. Currently  
French Teacher at  
Lakeville South High School.  
Coordinator, A Vous la Parole  
Minnesota AATF*

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**13. John Schade**

*Librarian, Minnesota Genealogical  
Library. Former President of Minnesota  
Genealogical Society. Expert in French  
Canadian Genealogical Research.*  
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**16. Professor Daniel Brewer**

*Professor, Department of French and  
Italian, University of Minnesota*  
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**19. Simeon A. Morbey, Esq.  
Legal Counsel for Foundation**

*Attorney at Law*  
*Former resident of Ottawa, Canada is  
both Canadian and U.S. citizen.*  
*Proficient in French Language*  
Morbey & Olsen P.L.L.P  
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**11. François Fouquerel**

*Dean of French Voyageur Program for  
Concordia Language Villages. Native of  
Normandy, France*

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**14. Joëlle Vitiello**

*Associate Professor*  
*Department of French and Francophone  
Studies, Macalester College*  
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**17. Rev. Ronald G. DesRosiers, S.M.**

*Assistant Professor (ret.), Department of  
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*Madonna University, Livonia, Michigan*

*Church of St. Louis King of France*  
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**20. Jordi Teillard**

*Dean/Site Manager, Academic Programs*  
*French Program Coordinator,*  
*Lac du Bois, Stillwater*  
*Concordia Language Villages at The Forest*

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jteillard@cord.edu

**12. Christine LOÏS**

*Author, Director and Producer of "En  
Avant" which is a film about French  
Heritage in Minnesota.*  
See website  
www.enavantfilm.com

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Phone: +33(0)6 51 25 48 73 &  
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Email: ch.loys@gmail.com

**15. Guy Vadeboncoeur**

*Professional museologist and Vice-  
President, Museology for the Musée  
McCord-Stewart Museum in Montreal,*  
Quebec  
543, 20<sup>e</sup> Avenue  
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**18. Carrie Heuing**

*Owner of Carrie-On Travel. Advisor on  
travel accommodations for out of town  
entertainers, guests of Franco-Fete  
Festival. Also interested in helping  
with Festival.*

Website: www.carrie-ontravel.com  
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**21. Michael Rainville**

*Partnership Marketing Manager*  
*Meet Minneapolis Convention and  
Visitors Association*

250 Marquette Ave South  
Suite 1300  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401  
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# Membership Structure

The Membership was structured so that 100% of the membership payment is tax deductible. IRS rules state that membership payments are fully deductible where there are no services given to members. Membership is annual and for the calendar year.

Members may make contributions to the website in the form of articles on French-American heritage, information on their genealogy and family history, and share resources that deal with French-American Heritage. Members are encouraged to volunteer to assist in activities the foundation sponsors, especially the Franco-Fête festival.

**Please encourage family and friends to join and support the French-American Heritage Foundation of Minnesota.**

## 2015 Accomplishments

Your Board of Directors is pleased to note the following accomplishments in our third year of existence:

- Regularly maintained our website at <http://fahfminn.org/> and added articles on French heritage, genealogy materials, and family history related to French-language cultures.
- Continued to formulate a future Franco-Fête by establishing a committee chaired by Noël Labine and reaching out to other French-related Minnesota organizations.
- Sponsored three educational events:
  - **April 13 to May 5, 2015-** Lake Harriet School. With the leadership of Board Member Jerry Foley, created a four-day course entitled “Minnesota History with a French Accent”. Presenters were Jerry Foley and Jane Peck (Week One: Early French Presence in Minnesota), Mark Labine (Week Two: Minnesota’s Early Settlers), Pierre Girard (Week Three: Ethnic Tensions Facing French in Minnesota), and Dick Bernard (Week Four: The Richness of our Heritage).
  - **June 5 to June 26-** Washburn Library- The same five presenters again taught the course “Minnesota History with a French Accent”.
  - **October 2, 2015-** A dinner presentation by John Schade, Librarian at the Minnesota Genealogical Library, titled “Beginning Canadian-French Genealogical Research” held at Dehn’s Country Manor in Maple Grove. Special displays about the nearby French-heritage communities of Dayton, Rogers, and Otsego enriched the evening.

- Wrote to the City of Minneapolis of our concern for the safety and stability of the landmark Our Lady of Lourdes Church, neighbor to a proposed re-development project in the St. Anthony Falls and Main Street historic district.



October 2015 Educational Event

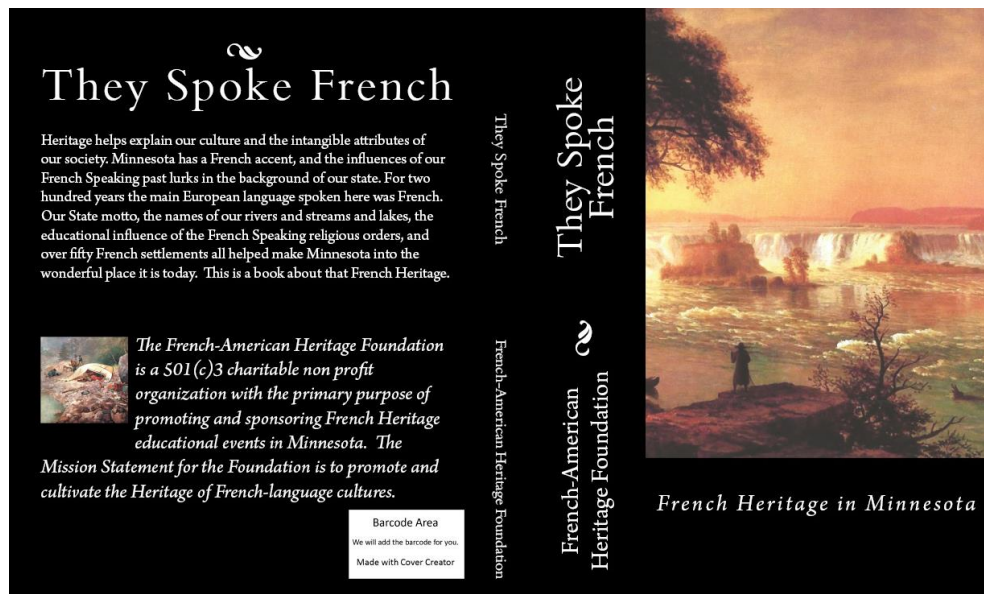
- Established and maintained a Facebook Page for F-AHF events and other Minnesota French-related events, including voyageur festivals and re-enactments, historical and cultural programs, and Alliance Française events. Notable postings to the new Facebook Page:
  - Photos and information from previous F-AHF programs—the June 2014 program on the discovery of Salpetre Caves on Lake Pepin by early French Explorers, presented by Dr. Greg Brick; the October 2014 French-Canadian Heritage Day celebration
  - Announcement of the Afoutayi Haitian Dance Company’s Open House in February 2015
  - UND Professor of French and F-AHF Board Member Dr. Virgil Benoit’s presentation of “History, Memory and Forgetting: Minnesota’s Métis and French Canadians” in May 2015; a podcast is still available via a link on our Facebook Page
  - Notice of the August 21-23, 2015 Chataqua and French-Canadian/Métis Festival near Red Lake Falls, Minnesota
  - An invitation to Minnesotans of French-language heritage to post family history accounts for eventual publication by the F-AHF

- Established and awarded two scholarships to the Voyageur Program headed by François Fouquerel of the Lac Du Bois camp of the Concordia Language Villages. The two scholarships are \$400 each and will be awarded annually.
- Established a \$500 scholarship for the study of French language and culture at the college or university level. Hearing of a threat to discontinue the French program at St. Cloud State University, the board voted to offer the scholarship there as a firm gesture of support. The program was terminated and the scholarship has not yet been awarded.

### First F-AHF Publication Nears Completion

The board is especially proud to recognize the first F-AHF book, created under the leadership of President Mark Labine and titled: *They Spoke French: French Heritage in Minnesota*

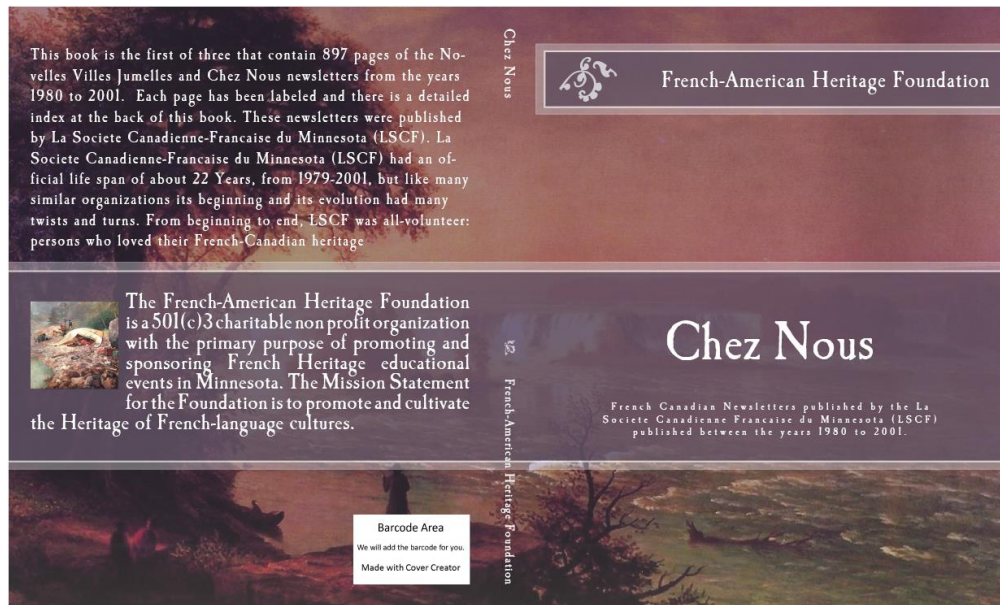
Board members and friends of the F-AHF who have contributed chapters are Greg Brick, Jerry Foley, Pierre Girard, Mark Labine, Rev. Jules O. Omalanga, Jane Skinner Peck, Jacqueline Regis, and John Schade. An application for funding for editing and publishing costs has been made to the Minnesota Historical Society. Donations will be welcome.



Cover of "They Spoke French"

### Second F-AHF Publication

The board has decided to make the issues of the newsletter *Chez Nous* of the former Société Canadienne Française available in print in three-volumes. There is a large variety of interesting stories and information about French Heritage in Minnesota in these newsletters. These volumes will be made available for sale at Heritage Events and on Amazon.com.



Proposed cover for Chez Nous Books

## 2016 Plans

- Continue planning toward a Franco-Fête in Minnesota. The committee chaired by Noël Labine includes Thierry Ajas, Christina Bouzouina, Michael Rainville, Anna Scallon, Christopher Tutolo, Jodi Petrich, Julie Dunlop, Jerry Foley, Pierre Girard, Mark Labine, Noël Labine, Shaina Praska, Anna Ouattara, Sherry Sivo, Elise Weinberg, Louis Wendling. Your participation would be welcome, too. Contact Noël Labine via our website.
- Host or participate in three educational events:
  - June 2016, a possible dinner and program featuring French Heritage in Minnesota.
  - July 2016, participate in the festivities related to a visit by representatives of Minneapolis' Sister City Tours, France
  - November 2016, celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Chapel of St. Paul in 1841.
- Award two scholarships to the Voyageur Program of the Lac du Bois camp of the Concordia Language Villages, of \$400 each.
- Award the post-secondary scholarship of \$500 for study of French language and culture.
- Maintain and add to our website fahfminn.org and our Facebook Page so that we develop a large database of family websites, heritage articles, and resources for learning about the French-American Heritage in Minnesota.
- Present the course “Minnesota History with a French Accent” again, over four weeks March 1,8,15, and 22, 2016 at the Nokomis Library in Minneapolis.

- Explore developing brochures with information on French Heritage sites in Minnesota.
- Publish *They Spoke French: French Heritage in Minnesota* in both English and French. The Board will explore funding ideas to pay for the cost of translating the book into French.
- Publish the three volumes of *Chez Nous*.

## Donations

The French-American Heritage Foundation needs donations in order to survive. We need those interested in preserving and promoting French-American Heritage in Minnesota to donate to our Foundation. All donations are tax deductible. As a way to assist the Foundation to raise donations, rack cards have been printed that provide prospective members with information about our foundation. Copies of these rack cards are shown below.

For donations or to show your support, simply write a check made payable to the French-American Heritage Foundation and mail to either Jerry Foley, Treasurer, 4736 Coffey Lane, Minneapolis, MN 55406, or to the French-American Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 25384, Woodbury, MN 55125.

Donations can also be made by credit card thru PayPal on the French-American Heritage Foundation website at [www.fafhminn.org](http://www.fafhminn.org).

## Financial Report

Below is the 2015 financial report for the Foundation.

<b>1. 2015 Income</b>	
Sponsors	2,098.70
Sustaining Members	500.00
Supporting Members	310.00
Events	\$919.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,828.68</b>
<b>2. 2015 Expenses</b>	
Ad in Alliance Directory	175.00
Concordia Scholarships	800.00
Events	675.02
Postage	51.19
Post Office Box	66.00
Publishing Costs	98.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,865.91</b>

<b>3. Cash Flow</b>			
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Assets Beginning of Year	1,665.77	\$3,012.54	\$4,975.31
Income	\$4,509.10	\$3,828.68	
Expenses	-3,162.33	-1,865.91	
Net Cash Flow (loss)	\$1,346.77	\$1,962.77	
<b>Assets End of Year</b>	<b>\$3,012.54</b>	<b>\$4,975.31</b>	

<b>4. Assets</b>			
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	
PayPal	869.89	387.00	
Associated Bank	2,142.65	4588.31	
<b>Current Asset Value</b>	<b>3,012.54</b>	<b>4,975.31</b>	



**These designs and logos were created for the Franco-Fête and are copyrighted to the French-American Heritage Foundation.**

# **French-American Heritage Foundation of Minnesota Members**

## **List of 2013 French-American Heritage Foundation Members**

1. Bernard, Dick
2. Durand, Mike
3. Foley, Gerald
4. Labine, Mark
5. Weller, MaryEllen
6. Beiring, Jacqueline Demeules
7. Benoit, Virgil
8. Fillion, Barbara
9. Horn, William B.
10. Loys, Christine
11. Regis, Jacqueline M.
12. Peck, Jane
13. Ruffing, John J. and Patricia

## **List of 2014 French-American Heritage Foundation Members**

1. Benoit, Virgil
2. Bernard, Dick
3. Bomier, Bruce
4. Brunelle, Philip
5. Caldwell, Brian
6. Collette, John
7. Cronin, Jackie
8. Demueles, Christopher
9. Dufault, Dustin
10. Dufault, Robert and Lana
11. Dufour, Roger
12. England, John S.
13. Foley, Gerald
14. Gagne, Paulette
15. Girard, Pierre
16. Horn, William
17. Labine, Mark
18. LaBrosse, George
19. Mayers, Carole
20. Mayers, Paul and Caroline
21. Petty, Mark
22. Proulx, Marie-Jean
23. Ruffing, John and Patricia
24. Weller, MaryEllen
25. Wolsey, Mary Lou

## **List of 2015 French-American Heritage Foundation Members**

1. Beiring, Jackie
2. Bernard, Dick
3. Brunelle, Philip
4. Caldwell, Brian
5. Cronin, Jackie
6. Daniels, Treffle and J.M.
7. Dufault, Dustin
8. England, John S.
9. Foley, Gerald
10. Girard, Pierre
11. Hedeem, Florence
12. Horn, William
13. Labine, Mark
14. Labine, Noel
15. Landreville, Jerry and Jean
16. Petty, Mark
17. Proehl, Anita
18. Ruffing, John and Patricia
19. Sylvestre, Eugene
20. Weller, MaryEllen
21. Wolsey, Mary Lou